

Grace Church Visitor

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FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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No. 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Communion services Sabbath morning, Oct. 24. Baptism and reception of members.

Young People's Revival services during the week preceding the communion services, beginning on Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Clark will entertain the Woman's Missionary society at her home, 1001 Columbia Ave., Thursday afternoon, Oct. 21.

Circle No. 4 of the Woman's Aid society will serve supper in the lecture rooms of the church Thursday evening, Oct. 28, from 5 to 8 o'clock.

The Allen County Sunday School convention will meet in Grace Church Thursday, Nov. 4th. Sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening.

A new feature of interest in our Sabbath evening services will be the service of song, and the special music by the choir. Come and help us sing and give your presence and inspiration at this service.

It was a disappointment to many of our people that the weather was so unfavorable on our Rally and Educational Day. Many were detained from the services, both morning and evening. Considering the weather the attendance was good. We are sure that those who came out to the services were well repaid for their coming. Dr. Miller gave us splendid addresses and sermons. It was a great privilege to have him with us. We were glad that the people could meet him. The program we have followed for the past several years upon Rally Day seems to meet the hearty endorsement of the people. While we make it a day for the rallying of the people and the forces of the church, we aim to make it also a day for the educating of the people. We trust we may have great results from our recent Rally Day.

The consistory has let the contract for a new furnace for the Sunday School room. The old furnace has literally gone to pieces and should have been taken out last year. The new furnace installed will cost \$125, with guarantee to give good service. The consistory spent some time in examining furnaces before the purchase was made, and we believe that the furnace selected will give satisfaction. We'll have it installed by October 17th.

Thursday evening, Oct. 28, the women of the church will serve supper in the lecture rooms. It has been some time since the members of Grace Church had the privilege of eating their suppers together at the church. We always look forward to these occasions with a great deal of pleasure because of the social feature of the gathering. These suppers give an opportunity for the members of the church and their friends to get acquainted and have a social evening together. We should have these social gatherings at the church more frequently. It is not the money-making feature of the occasion that is of the greatest importance to the church. It is the family gathering, the home-coming of the members of the church, the social feature of the evening, that we are most concerned about. Acquaintanceship and sociability create mutual sympathy and interest. Widely scattered over the city as our people are, they are strangers to each other, and the only way of becoming acquainted with each other is by house to house visitation, at the church services, and through the social gatherings at the church. Come to the suppers and gatherings at the church, get acquainted and be helpful to each other in the spiritual upbuilding and social life of the church.

WHY THE PARSON DIDN'T "MAKE THE PACE."

The Story of a Pertinent and Profitable Parable.

(Concluded.)

Mr. Simeon Barton, prominent merchant, prominent citizen, member of the board of trustees of the Central (otherwise known as the "White") Church, looked after the receding form of his visitor with an amused smile. "Isn't that just like Joe?" he murmured. "Everything is 'hosses' to him. But what a ridiculous notion to compare a minister to a horse!"

But as he still stood on the piazza, watching the pudgy little figure make its way down the village street, slowly the smile died away, and a graver and questioning look took its place. Was the notion so ridiculous, after all? Was the parable so far-fetched as at first it had seemed? Might not Joe Dooley also be among the prophets? There came back to him a sentee or two from the horseman's little homily: "There's a reason somewhere, an' it's good hoss-sense to find out what it is. When a hoss goes stale on me, I c'n-sider that it's up to me to bore into th' thing until I see daylight. Don't ketch me putterin' round an' sayin' it's a 'puzzle,' an' 'I don't understand it.' " Possibly there was a hint just there that was worth following up. It might be that a little "boring" into this disturbing matter o' the minister's loss of grip and power would let in a bit of "daylight."

The meeting of the members of the Central Church duly called to "consider and take action upon the resignation of the pastor" was largely attended. Such a gathering at a mid-week prayer meeting would have made the pastor's heart sing for joy, even while it would doubtless have stirred his mind to great wonderment as to its cause.

Nor was it a perfunctory or hypocritical gathering. The people of the Central Church loved their minister, and

were sincerely grieved at thought of losing him. No one had hinted to him that his usefulness was waning and that it would be better for him to leave; probably no one would ever have made that suggestion. It was Mr. Crane himself who had sensed the situation and had taken the initiative; the people were only accepting what seemed inevitable and acquiescing in an apparent necessity.

There could be no denying the fact that the church was running down. Congregations were falling off; prayer meetings were approaching the vanishing-point in attendance; the Sunday school was diminishing in numbers and interest; and all this was showing itself on the treasurer's books. Yes, the tide was certainly ebbing at the Central Church and there seemed but one thing to do. Much as they loved the old, they must have a new minister.

It was understood as a matter of course that the resignation was to be accepted, and Lawyer Kennedy had in his pocket the usual series of resolutions with which such matters are smoothed over. But, when the motion to accept had been made and seconded and was before the house for discussion, Mr. Barton arose.

"Mr. Chairman," he began, "had this meeting been held a week ago, I should probably have voted in the affirmative on this question, in the sincere conviction that it was the only way out of a real and distressing situation. But now I am not so sure about that. I want to tell you a story."

"The chair would remind Brother Barton," interrupted the chairman, "that serious business is before us, and that we have neither time nor inclination for stories unless they bear directly upon a matter in hand."

Mr. Barton smiled. "I think you will grant that the relation is very immediate and direct when you have heard my story," he rejoined.

Then very simply he told of Joe Dooley's visit and advice, keeping as close as possible to the old horseman's

phraseology. As he proceeded, and the application of the parable began to be apparent, a strained and tense hush fell on the assembly. It seemed almost as though some stopped breathing. More than one head was dropped; more than one cheek flushed with the consciousness of guilt under the implied indictment.

"Now," continued the speaker, "I've been trying to follow old Joe's advice. I have been looking the horse over, and I can find no fault in him. Are any of us dissatisfied with Mr. Crane personally? Do we not respect and love him as a fine preacher, an excellent pastor, a true Christian gentleman, and a firm friend? Isn't he just the kind of man that we'd like to have for our next pastor? Yes, I see you all agree with me. And yet, in spite of all this, as Joe says, he isn't 'making the pace. If the trouble isn't with the horse, it must be with the sulky. I've been looking that over, too. Is Central Church letting or helping its pastor 'make the pace,' or is it acting as a drag upon him?

"Last Friday night I dropped into the prayer meeting." Mr. Barton laughed a little constrainedly, and his face flushed. "Yes, I know some of you are thinking that that was a strange place for me to be, and it was. I don't know when I've been to prayer meeting before. And yet I used to attend regularly, as did a good many of the rest of you whom I didn't see the other night. Let me make a confession just here. Not often in my life has anything cut me so deeply as the pastor's look of surprise when I entered the door. Glad, of course he was glad to see me, but surprised; that's the point. Think of it, a pastor surprised to see a member of his church at a regular prayer meeting of the church! Let that sink into your minds a little. How many were there? Twenty-seven; about the usual number, I was told. And Central Church has a membership of about four hundred.

"On Sunday I stepped into the Sunday school. I was a stranger there.

My old class was gone. So was yours, Deacon Deane, and yours, Mrs. Thaxter, and yours, Jim Bradley, and—well, what's the use? Look in for yourselves, and see the situation. And there was Pastor Crane after a strenuous morning in the pulpit obliged to take a class of men, and thus to forego the privilege and the possibilities of a school-wide supervision, just because there isn't a man of us who is willing to put himself into the work!

"I didn't go to Sunday-evening service, but I peeped in at the door to see who were there. Just a handful of Central Church people—and not many others, for that matter. Why should the outside world be expected to come if we stay away? Then I left the church and began a round of calls. Yes," as a broadening smile went over the meeting, "you understand now why I dropped in to see some of you for a minute Sunday night. I wanted to see where you were and what you were doing. I was looking over the sulky, to find out what was the matter with it. Most of you were at home, enjoying the calm and quiet with your families. All right and proper enough; only down there on the corner the Central Church was trying to do business with the greater part of its members absent from their posts; down there the pastor was trying to 'make the pace' with the sulky dragging back all the time.

"Pardon this long speech; I'm about through. I haven't a word of blame for the church; I'm taking this whole thing to myself. And this as the way I size it up: So far as I am concerned there is little reason why the pastor or the church should succeed in their work. I am putting so little into that work that my influence is largely, if not entirely, negative. It isn't that I have anything against either church or pastor, and I don't think it is because I have lost my love for the Lord and my interest in His cause. It is simply because I haven't really stooped to think of my relation and duty. I have

(Continued on Page 5.)

Oct 1915

Grace Church Visitor

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, D. D., Editor and Pub.

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Mrs. Roy Bitner is a patient at the Lutheran hospital. She is getting along very nicely.

Harry Chausse had an operation for goiter at the Lutheran hospital recently. It was a very critical operation but he got along splendidly.

Mrs. Harry Baum is very much worse and is suffering intensely. She has been an example of patience and trust. For seven years she has been confined to her bed.

Mrs. Waldo has improved very much. They are now living on Marion street, corner of Third street.

Mr. and Mrs. William Siebold and son Ralph returned from their trip to the Pacific coast. They are very much in love with California. We are glad to have them home again and see them at the services.

Misses Ruth and Ada, and Howard Gumpper are at home after spending two months traveling through the West. They certainly had a fine time and we are sure they made good use of their opportunities. We are glad to see them back again.

Mr. Rucks spent a recent Sabbath at Mulberry, Ind., with the guests they entertained during the meeting of Classis last Spring. They had a pleasant time and greatly enjoyed attending the services at the Reformed church in Mulberry.

Mr. Harry Metzners are now pleasantly located in their new home on Wildwood avenue.

Robert Bitner is spending a month or more in San Francisco, Los Angeles and other western cities. He is at present in Los Angeles with his brother Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fosler have sold their property on St. Mary's avenue and are now living at 1414 Oakland street.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Hills are at home from their summer home at St. Ignace.

The young people were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wertman Thursday evening, Oct. 14th, at their monthly business meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Young People's Revival Week, Oct. 19th to 22nd.

Tuesday evening, Oct. 19, 7:30 to 8 o'clock—Song service. Prayer, W. F. Close. Standing of Our C. E. Society, Helen Trish. Sermon, The Need for a Revival, by the pastor.

Wednesday evening, Oct. 20th—Prayer meeting by the C. E. Society. George Shiffer, leader.

Thursday evening, Oct. 21st, 7:30 to 8 o'clock—Song service. Prayer by the pastor. Sermon, Blessings and Safeguards.

Friday evening, Oct. 22nd, 7:30—Song service. Prayer, Evan Williams, president of society. Our Pledge, Mrs. Zartman, Miss Hazel Gooley. A Call to Service, E. W. Baumgartner.

Committee—Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Baumgartner, Evelyn Wertman, Helen Trish, Clarence Aken.

Pianist—Miss Vera Sessler.

Circle No. 4 of the Woman's Aid society will serve supper at the church Thursday evening, Oct. 28th. *Now*

Managers—Mesdames Emma Bitner, J. H. Straub, Jacob Rudisill, William Siebold.

Assistants—Mesdames Susan Smith, James Smith, Ed. Siebold, Jessie Benton, Lena Fritz, Oscar Riley, Samuel Frederick, Martha Frederick, David Walters, Daniel Mullen, Henry Krohn-miller, Jennie Flooring, William Fosler, John Schlaudroff, George Shiffer, Samuel Keck, J. W. Shiffer, John McMahon, Ernest Payne, Valentine Monn, Luke Durnell, Louis Martin, Rufus Druckenbrod, F. D. Knott, Roy Bitner, Jennie Smith, Irma Merrilett, Elnora Logan, Ray Deahl, Ruth Potts, Fred Roth, Grace Shoda, Burt Hatch, Myrtle Men-sen, David Copenhagen; Misses Lulu Bitner, Lizzie Rudisill, Libbie Felker, Mabel Reibel, Esther Fritz, Edith Shif-fer.

WHY THE PARSON DIDN'T "MAKE THE PACE."

(Continued from Page 3.)

taken it for granted that everything would go on all right no matter what I did or did not do. It was pure thoughtlessness, but perhaps thoughtlessness is a crime against God and His church.

"And I wonder whether this isn't about the state of affairs with most of us. Without intending it we have been getting out from under the load and letting it come on the pastor, and then have wondered why he can't 'make the pace.' Would it be any different if we had a new pastor? Surely not, unless we changed our course. But why not change that course with the man we know and love, instead of with and for a stranger? How would it do for Central Church to keep the horse, and righten up the sulky a little just now?"

When Mr. Barton sat down, silence reigned. There ware deep searchings of heart in that assembly, and no one care to speak. The parable had done what preaching could never have done. Good men and women were brought face to face with their own responsibility for conditions that they sincerely mourned. Good Deacon Carter, the chairman, rightly interpreted the signs of the hour, and forbore to ask for remarks or to call for action. The Spirit was present; let Him control. And He did.

Finally young Jim Bradley—although a man of forty of more, he was always called "young Jim" to distinguish him froh his father, who was also "Jim"—arose. He was one of the ablest men in the church and community, a college graduate and a lawyer of more than local fame. But for once his usual ready command of languäge failed him, and he halted and stammered like a schoolboy.

"Mr. Chairman," he began, "somebody ought to say something, but—I—I hardly know what to say or how to say it. We have had a wonderful revelation this evening. It has not been pleasant. It will not give us sweet dreams to-night. But it is true! Joe

Dooley is, I verily believe, a prophet of the Most High to Central Church of Ryeboro. The trouble is not with our pastor, but with us. Let's confess it, and face our duty like the Christian men and women that we believe we are in spite of our carelessness and indifference. There is a motion before the house to accept the resignation of Mr. Crane. So confident am I that we are all now of the same way of thinking that I venture to call for the question."

"All those in favor of accepting the resignation of our pastor say, 'Ay,'" called the chairman.

Silence unbroken!

"Those opposed say, 'No.'"

A mighty shout arose! There could be no questioning of the verdict.

"Now, Mr. Chairman," said Mr. Bradley, "I move that the following motion be adopted and entered upon the records of this church: 'Resolved, That the Central Church of Ryeboro declines to swap horses, and pledges itself herewith to the task of keeping the sulky in repair so that the proper pace may be made.'"

"You don't mean just that—"

"Why, that would sound like a jockey's—"

"Of course that won't do—"

Wholly regardless of parliamentary considerations a hubbub of protest and expostulation arose. The speaker remained standing; and, when the up-road had lessened he continued: "I should like to have that motion adopted and recorded in just that phraseology. It is unusual, uneccllesiastical, undignified, what you please. But, brethren and sisters, we are standing in a solemn place to-night. We have narrowly escaped doing our church and pastor a serious injury. The means of our deliverance was a striking parable. There isn't one of us who could ever see or hear that record upon our books without recalling this house. And to those who are not present that singular entry, as it is explained, may become the means of enlightenment and stimulation. I press my motion for the resolution."

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

And in the end the motion prevailed, and that unique entry may to-day be read in the full round handwriting of the clerk on the records of the Central Church of Ryeboro.

"What's all this I hear 'bout the White Church an' Elder Crane?" asked Joe Dooley at his next visit to Mr. Barton a few months later. "Last time I was here you was goin' to fire him, or let him fire himself, for not makin' the pace. Seems you didn't, an' that he's running' in great form now. Hain't heard much ence I struck town but th' great doin's up to th' church. An', O, yes, what 'd young Jim Bradley mean by sayin' that you'd made up your minds to 'tend to th' sulky a leetle more, an' that I was responsible for th' hull bizness?"

And, as Mr. Barton told him the story, the old man listened with intent interest. When the recital was finished, he sat for a few moments in silence. Then his only comment was:

"Wall, I swanny to gum! They's lots of hoss-sense in folks if you c'n only get at it."

C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS

Nov. 7.—Tasks That Are Waiting for the Church of Christ,—Luke 4:14-21. Leader—Walter Close.

Nov. 14.—How the Denominations May Be United in Service,—Isa. 52:7,8. Leader—Mrs. A. K. Zartman.

Nov. 21.—The Way in Which God Wants to be Thanked,—Ps. 67:1-7. Leader—Ray Deahl.

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